

COUNTY OF ORANGE

OBSERVER PLAN

2008



NEAL KELLEY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



1300 S. Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 567-7600

Election Observer Panel Plan

I. County and System Information

1. County of Orange
2. Brett Rowley, Election Services Manager
3. (714) 567-7623
4. Hart InterCivic, eSlate/Ballot Now
5. January 4, 2008

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Registrar of Voters Election Observer Panel Plan is to provide an avenue for public observation and input into the election process. The County of Orange is dedicated to providing open and honest election services leading to a record of impeccable integrity. We encourage participation to help build voter confidence in our products and services.

III. Invite

Election observation is consistently discussed with the various community groups as we meet prior to elections. These meetings include members from the Grand Jury, advocacy groups, political parties and more. An example letter of invitation is attached.

The County of Orange consistently delivers press releases to the media and interested parties regarding dates and times for logic and accuracy testing and the canvassing process. Please see the draft release attached.

Additionally, all press releases are delivered as a service to subscribers of Registrar of Voters Newsfeeds. Newsfeeds are brief election information updates sent via email to subscribers. There are currently over 400 subscribers to the Orange County Registrar of Voters Newsfeed.

Poll Workers are trained on the following:

Poll monitors typically represent a candidate, party or organization and they have a right to be at a polling place. However, they may ONLY observe the procedures. They may not and should not, in any way, be involved with polling place operations and they may not interfere with your operation of the polling place. They, too, may not remain if they interfere with or intimidate voters. If you believe that the presence or activity of a poll monitor may be intimidating voters, please call our office immediately.

Reporters, camera crews and other members of the media are allowed at the polling place as long as they respect voter privacy and do not interfere with the voting process. Taking pictures or recording footage of actual ballots is not allowed; do not allow the media to disrupt activities at the polling place.

A political party, candidate or organization may appoint a poll monitor to observe activity at the polls and track voter turnout. Poll monitors can refer to the two posted copies of the Street Index if desired, but they may not interfere with or intimidate voters. Notify the Registrar of Voters immediately if you believe that the presence or activity of a poll monitor may be intimidating voters.

Keep an eye out for activity that could indicate tampering or an attempt at tampering; immediately report to the ROV any observations of tampering or an attempt to tamper with voting equipment. The ROV will make the determination of whether the machine needs to be removed from service.

IV. Appointment Letters (for introduction to precinct workers)

Letters of introduction for groups and individuals that wish to observe Election Day voting in polling places are continually part of Orange County's observer plan. Additionally, poll workers are trained on how to provide access to poll monitors without interfering with the voting process. Please see the draft letter attached.

In addition to access to polling places Orange County prepares precinct maps, lists of polling place locations and more for interested parties upon request.

All citizens are invited and provided access to the tallying process on election night and during the canvass period. Registrar of Voters staff is available to answer questions on election night and during the canvass process.

V. Mechanism for Feedback

The various groups interested in elections often have different motivations and/or aspects of the election that draw their focus. With this in mind the Registrar of Voters invites discussion with these groups prior to and after elections. The Registrar of Voters has several committees to enlist input regarding election services that include: Community Advisory Committee, Latino Advisory Committee, Asian Community Advisory Committee and Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

All groups and individuals are welcome to provide the Registrar of Voters with written questions, concerns and/or reports on elections conducted in Orange County. The Registrar of Voters will provide responses when appropriate and necessary.

INVITATION



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
1300 South Grand Avenue, Bldg. C
Santa Ana, California 92705
(714) 567-7600
TDD (714) 567-7608
FAX (714) 567-7627
www.ocvote.com

NEAL KELLEY
Registrar of Voters

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 11298
Santa Ana, California 92711

Date

Dear XXXX:

The Registrar of Voters would like to invite you to the ballot counting center to observe the tabulation of ballots on Election Night, February 5, 2008. You are also invited to observe staff at the Registrar of Voters as they process Vote-by-Mail ballots.

Representatives of the county central committees, advocacy groups, the League of Women Voters, and the County Grand Jury, as well as media representatives, are reminded they may participate.

If your organization would like to observe the election process, including visiting poll sites on Election Day, please notify Brett Rowley at (XXX) XXX – XXXX with the name of the representative(s). They will be provided with the information necessary to participate.

Sincerely,

Neal Kelley
Registrar of Voters

Press Release for Logic and Accuracy



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2008

Contact: Neal Kelley or Brett Rowley
(714)567-5139 (714)567-7623

**Test to be Conducted on
Orange County Voting Systems**

Santa Ana, CA January 22, 2008 – Accuracy testing of Orange County's voting system will take place January 29, 2008 for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election. The Logic and Accuracy test is required by law to be performed prior to each election.

Logic and Accuracy tests will include proofing the programming of the ballot, each ballot style and each contest position on the ballot.

"Having gone through an unprecedented number of elections in recent years that include various recounts in which courts of law have upheld our policies, procedures and accuracy of the voting system, we are confident that it is a safe and accurate voting system," said Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters. "Our voting system is the only electronic system approved for use, in full, by the Secretary of State of California." He continued.

All previous tests of the voting system have proven it to be 100% accurate.

The Logic and Accuracy test process is open to the public. The location, date and time are as follows:

Where:
Orange County Registrar of Voters
1300 South Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, California

Date:
January 29, 2008

Time:
10:00 a.m. until complete

#

POLL MONITOR LETTER



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Santa Ana, California 92711

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Dear Inspector:

The bearer of this letter is observing the XXXXXXXXXX Election on behalf of
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Poll site observation is permitted under California Election law. If the individual is speaking to voters or conducting surveys they are required to remain outside of the polling place and avoid surveying within twenty-five feet of the entrance.

If they are simply observing the process they are allowed to remain inside the poll site as long as they are not interfering with any of the poll site operation.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please call Brett Rowley at (714) 567-7623.

Sincerely,

Neal Kelley
Registrar of Voters